

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION IN THE RURAL SECTOR

Javier Suárez Morales

Among the objectives of the Social Development Ministry we can find providing program benefits by different means including from food support to substructure generating aids and to give basic services to urban and rural localities in the country.

Nowadays Mexico has around 200 thousand localities, from which 196 thousand are rural localities with less than 2,500 inhabitants and which are additionally characterized for having an important dispersion in the national territory.

This fact forces the Ministry to rely on more complete and precise tools to approach the socioeconomic conditions of the population and thus be able to provide them with better attention through social programs.

However census information is available for each of the urban and rural localities of the country; information related to attending the programs, the substructure existing in each of these localities, as well as poverty conditions is required to be able to do an appropriate strategic planning in the different areas of social policies.

The complexity to obtain trustable information about income is known, mostly in rural localities where additional to monetary income one can frequently find income by other means, such as transferences, self-supply, etc. which make even more difficult to have an accurate measurement of the income. All that together with the proper problems of income declaration make the measurement of this variable to have a certain degree of underestimation.

Considering that one of the major elements required by social programs is to know with precision the degree of poverty within the population, a statistical model that allows knowledge of poverty conditions was design. For this model a group of variables which gather information regarding the different spheres in which poverty is reflected was selected.

After testing the multivariate statistical techniques used in the National Home Income and Expenses Survey (ENIGH), a decision was made to use discriminants as the most appropriate to estimate poverty. Once the model was thoroughly known it was applied in each of the homes of the 2000 National Population and Housing Census and results were obtained in each rural locality and in each block in urban localities.

This model was also included in the inscription questionnaire applied to each family that demands the benefits of a program, which allows to know if its poverty profile corresponds to that requires in each of the Ministry programs, in some cases at the end of the interview. Likewise when applying this model to beneficiary polls which cover the group of variables required by the model, the poverty conditions of each family can be known and from this point knowing which is the distribution of the beneficiaries and which are the areas that concentrate the potential demand.

With these elements a social information system that gathers data from several sources such as census, administrative records, social substructure records, among others was generated, in order to count with a stable planning element for the several areas in the Ministry once they are integrated in a geo-statistical tool.